

THE EXCITER

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING PROGRAMS 8 P.M. AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE PERRY SHANKLE CO., 1801 S. FLORES

FRIDAY, SEPT. 2 MOON AND SATELLITE BOUNCE

At press time, the program chairman had not been able to get a positive commitment, but states that, barring unforeseen problems, we will have Major Andrews, W4ANZ, to address the meeting. His subject will be the use of the moon, and man-made satellites, as passive reflectors in vhf and uhf communication circuits. His talk will be based on a thesis prepared by a candidate for the Master's Degree.

DRAWING RESULTS

Here is a list of the lucky winners in Modern's August prize drawing: KN5ZCY, P. Kaufman, and K5RMT, Charlie Yaws each won a \$12.50 value Discoil; and K5MZS, Reid Sykes; K5VFD, Mr. Wilkews; K5SJB, Robbie Rice; W5OFY, Fred Mueller; and D. Johnston each won a nice pair of opera glasses. All the winners this time are from the San Antonio area.

VHF AND UP

The most exciting news of the month has been the orbiting of ECHO I, the 100 ft. aluminum covered mylar balloon just .0005 inches thick. As mentioned in the August EXCITER, ECHO I is transmitting with .005 watts on 107.94 mc. with two separate transmitters about 3 kc. apart. The 11 oz. TX's are pasted on the sides of the balloon and are powered with solar-charged batteries. These signals have been received for up to 20 minutes on a pass by the writer, about as

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The meeting this evening is concerned with the most important single event of the year, as it is the time when we choose the people to whom the operation of the club is entrusted for the next year. Make plans to come out and express yourself by voting. The regular prize drawings will be held at the conclusion of the meeting.

DOOR PRIZES

Due to the absence of most everybody with any prize information at the Aug. 5 meeting, a dual drawing was held at the next meeting, with these the lucky winners: \$2.50 gift certificates; W5IWE from Sherman Electronics, K5RBA from Radio & T. V., W5VPQ from Bill Case Records, W4ANZ from Radio & T. V. and W5HHE from Bill Case. W5OZ4 and W5DKF each won Irving Electronics Printed Circuit Board of the month, and W5FNA retaliated by winning the \$5.00 gift certificate from Modern. Like, this is almost as good as getting free money, dad, and all you gotta do is make the scene Friday Nite. Dig?

long as visual observations.

In addition to the professionals bouncing signals off the sphere, there are amateur groups trying to do the same. Locally, Bill Moore, K5OOJ, has run some preliminary tests with CO2DL, so far without success. On 20 August, during a favorable pass between the two stations, CO2DL transmitted from 1600 to 2000 CST while OOJ listened on 50 mc. DL has

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THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB W5SC
 W5FND, Pres. W5DKF, V.P.
 W5HHE, Sec. W5FGA, Treas.
 W5DKF, Program chairman

also been transmitting on 1296 mc. at the same time. Results won't come easy, though, as the path loss is about that of a moon bounce circuit. But results won't be had unless someone tries.

Es openings have been usual for this time of year. However, W5KRH reports that the six meter MARS net closed up after roll call one evening recently because of the interference caused by other stations in the mid-west. And K5OOJ reports that CO2DL has been hearing KEEZ, San Antonio, in the FM band.

If any of the gang hears any unusual signals or of some unique accomplishment performed by their friends, please contact the writer. Don't hide both ends of the candle under your casket. Regards,

Cal Graf, W5LFM
 DI 4-5032

DX NOTES

Flash: Five new countries have been added to the ARRL DXCC countries list. These are:

Mali Federation (QSO after June 20, '60) FF4-7; Mauritana (Same dates) FF7; Ruanda-Urundi (July 1, '60) 9U5; Somalia (7-1-'60) 6O1-2, and Marcus Island (Nov 1, 45) KG6I-. In addition, the Cayman Islands VP5, have been restored to separate country status. Deletions to the country list include VQ6 and I5 (Br. and It. Somalialand) UN1 (Karelo-Finnish Soviet Republic) and Wrangel Island, UA0. Credit for these deleted countries will not be allowed for

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S. A. Scout Falls to Death

A San Antonio explorer scout fell 120 feet to his death in the treacherous Devil's sink hole near Rock-springs Sunday when a huge boulder dislodged and fell on him.

Killed was Abner Jefferson Totty III, 15, son of Sgt. and Mrs. Abner J. Totty, 411 Sprucewood.

DAD WITH GROUP

The boy's father, a retired air force sergeant was with the climbing party when the fatal fall took place.

The boy was a member of Explorer Post 304, sponsored by St. Stephen's Methodist church. A group of 10 scouts and 4 adult leaders, including the senior, Totty, had been camping at the sink hole since Friday.

The party returned to San Antonio following the tragedy.

The Totty youth had entered scouting as a cub in 1952. He had become a life scout and officials said he was just one merit badge away from becoming an eagle scout.

BEGAN DESCENT

The accident occurred as the scouts began a descent into the 180-foot crater Sunday.

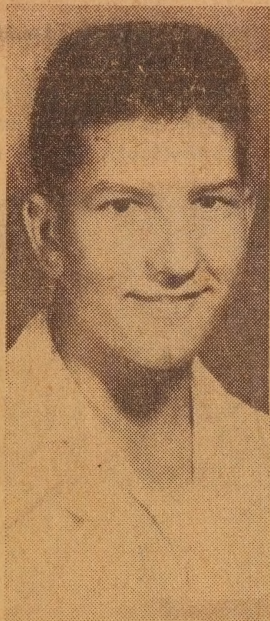
They had hooked a steel cable ladder to a rock formation near the top. Totty had descended about 60 feet when the boulder was dislodged and struck him.

Larry Higgins, assistant explorer adviser, was lowered to Totty and tried in vain to revive him with mouth to mouth respiration.

TREATED FOR SHOCK

Higgins later collapsed and was treated at a Rocksprings hospital for shock.

Also with the party were Erwin Ward jr., explorer adviser, and Mike Clifford, another adult leader.

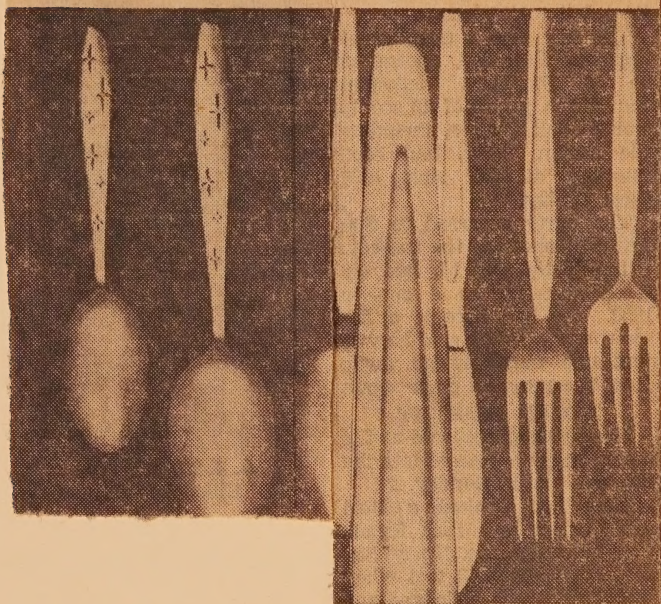


A. J. TOTTY III
Killed in fall.

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QSO's after June 30, 60.

These changes now make it possible for a DX'ers countries worked total to exceed 300. Jack White, ZL2GX, is the first DX'er in the world to have 300 countries confirmed, just nosing out long time leaders W6AM and W1FH for that distinction.

Strong signals from overseas dep't: Have you heard 5A2TO or 5A2TZ on 15 'phone? Or DU7SV, KR6LJ or ZL1VO on 20 'phone and CW? These fellows come in so loud that I am surprised that our local TVI committee hasn't had complaints. They all use rhombics, except DU7SV who has an 80 foot high 3-band quad.

Sure makes us poor "weak signal" boys dream of Rhombic Acres; or wax poetic like Cal, W5LFM, who has often been overheard mumbling: "I think that I shall never see,—a poem as lovely as a 90 foot tree!" Oh well, in the meantime just keep calling them and hope!

73 & DX, Len, W5LGG

1961 W. G. CONVENTION

In a letter addressed to all amateur publications, dated Aug. 1, 1960, West Gulf Director Grady Payne officially accepted the Kerrville Amateur Radio Club's invitation to hold the division convention in Kerrville in 1961. Now is the time for all amateurs to pitch in and help make the convention a success. No one has been able to locate a mind reader, so advise Cedric, W5FNH, of your preferences.

CIVIL DEFENSE

W5DRO, Grant Moore, who has been the Bexar County Civil Defense Radio Officer for several years, has resigned his position. He gave an increasing lack of time as the reason for his resignation. W5CTL, John Breitler has accepted the position, and will be in charge of the local RACES program. (I hope you'll appoint a PRO to keep us up on the latest news, John.—Ed.)

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From other sources, we hear rumors of a re-activation of San Antonio (city) C. D., but it still is all hush-hush and none of the officials will confirm or deny.

ALAMO YLS

The Alamo YLs have been busy as bees working on the coming TYL-RUN party in November. But they are making plans to operate as a group on weekends after cooler weather sets in. So look for us, fellows.

Any station working four or more members of the club, send copy of contacts and 10 cents for mailing to W5WXT for your ALAMO YL certificate.

Next meeting will be Sept. 11th at the home of W5KQG.

GUTTER DOPE

When the heck are we going to have some more 75m. transmitter hunts??

DXpeditions: We hear that Bob W5OIK is going to visit Mexico soon. Wonder what frequencies he will operate?

Gene, W5EJT, and Ray, W5HHE, planning an exodus to the Devil's Sinkhole near Rocksprings (where's that?) to work the rare ones on 40 C. W. (I've got news for them—that country absorbs all the signal you can radiate—Ed.) Ray is also taking a troop of explorer scouts to look at the cave. This all happens Labor Day weekend.

From Carl, W5HFG, we learn the following; new QTH is La Coste, from where he monitors 50.40 Mcs. You 6m. ops take note. Carl also expounds on W5HYN's Gooney-bird equipped Volkswagen whose vertical whip out-talks the 6m. halo. K5RNW please take note. The 2½ element beam in use at HFG may have something to do with this record also. I'm glad that I'm not the only one with wind trouble.

From ARRL, we hear that W6NLZ worked KH6UK on 432 mcs., which sets another record. Those guys probably won't quit until they hit the X-ray band.

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